

BOOK REVIEW

The insects of Australia; a textbook for students and research workers. Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organization (CSIRO), Canberra. 1970. Melbourne University Press, Carlton, Victoria, Australia 3053. \$19.80 Australian, cloth. (Available in the U.S. from International Scholarly Book Service, Inc., P.O. Box 4347, Portland, OR 97208. \$25.70 U.S.). xiii + 1029 p.; 2400 illustrations (8 color plates); 30 authors.

The text for this monumental volume was completed in 1967, the delay in publishing being indicative of the difficulties with such a large volume. The book essentially replaces (not revises) the old standard, Tillyard (1926), which has long been inadequate. The general editor Dr. I. M. Mackerras had the responsibility of seeing the publication through the printers and coordinating the work of the 30 authors. Two of our members authored 2 chapters (H. E. Hinton, Chapt. 4; E. B. Britton, Chapt. 30).

The Australian fauna is relatively depauperate, with 574 families and 54,071 species recorded. These figures will obviously be enlarged when the fauna is better collected and studied.

Dr. E. B. Britton was responsible for the chapter on Coleoptera (p. 495-621). Most of the 238 individual figures in this chapter were executed by F. Nanninga, who also did the 8 beautiful color plates. His meticulous drawings, some of the finest ever done, add immensely to the excellent text. Over 19,000 species of beetles are currently known from Australia. The chapter contains a good general discussion of the Order Coleoptera (p. 495-517) and a systematic account of the Families (p. 517-621).

This volume is, in my opinion, the finest single publication on insects to appear in the past 25 years or more. It is unfortunate that such a tome has not been produced on North American insects. Congratulations to CSIRO and the many authors and artists who produced this fine volume!—R. E. Woodruff.

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The Naturalists Directory (41st ed.) 1972. Published by PCL Publications, Inc., P.O. Box 583, South Orange, N.J. 07079. \$5.00, paperback.

This book is primarily a listing of names, addresses, and special interests of over 3000 professional and amateur naturalists throughout the world. Over 500 museums, associations, societies, and periodicals are listed.

The previous edition was in 1968, and numerous (over 500) deletions and changes (over 1,000) are made in this new edition. A great number of entries appear to need updating; a spot check revealed numerous old addresses, deceased individuals, and the *Coleopterists Bulletin* is still listed as published by Catholic University Press. This updating is one of the most difficult jobs in preparing such a directory. Our members are encouraged to have their addresses and specialties listed free by sending this information to the address above.—R. E. Woodruff.

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Insects by Ross E. Hutchins. 1972. Prentice-Hall, Inc., Englewood Cliffs, N.J. 07632. xii + 324 p.; many photos; \$3.50 paperback.

The general approach is through behavior rather than a systematic presentation. Nearly every chapter contains some reference to beetles, and the following chapter headings illustrate the scope: 1) the world of insects; 2) instinct, intelligence, and behavior; 3) the songs they sing; 4) the aerialists; 5) insect migration; 6) the water realm; 7) the hunters; 8) the farmers; 9) the builders; 10) the paper and tent makers; 11) the nectar gatherers; 12) the carpenters, miners, and gall makers; 13) plant curiosities; 14) the pollinators; 15) chemical warfare; 16) of size and strength; 17) of light and color; 18) insects and the future. Hutchins is an excellent photographer, and the many original photos add tremendously to the book. Like most recent general texts, it contains sufficiently unique features to warrant its place on all entomologists' bookshelves.—R. E. Woodruff.